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**DOHERTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 12, 2013) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Haleigh Washington of Doherty High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year. Washington is the first Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Doherty High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Washington as Colorado's best high school volleyball player. Washington joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including USA Volleyball players Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, Ill).

The state's returning Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year, Washington slammed 589 kills while compiling a .383 hitting percentage and .523 kill percentage this past season, leading the Spartans (21-6) to a berth in the Class 5A state tournament. Also the two-time All-Colorado Player of the Year as named by The Denver Post, the 6-foot-4 senior middle blocker amassed 413 service receptions, 170 digs, 101 blocks and 33 service aces. An Under Armour First Team All-American as named by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, Washington played for the 2012 U.S. Women's Junior National Team and captured All-Tournament honors at the 2013 USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships this past summer. She led Doherty to the 2012 Class 5A state championship as a junior.

Washington has maintained a 4.04 weighted GPA in the classroom. A Fellowship of Christian Athletes member, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church's youth group, a food bank and Young Life.

"Haleigh's elite athleticism sets her apart from everyone else," said Doherty head coach Tara Hittle. "She touches 10-foot-9 on her approach jump and can dunk a basketball. She plays the game from a very high point, which gives her an advantage of hitting over any block, and she's also able to hit the ball straight down at unreal angles. She had to do literally everything for us this season. We set her almost every ball. She is every coach's dream player. Haleigh is an unbelievable volleyball player."

Washington has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Penn State University beginning in the fall of 2014.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Washington joins Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Players of the Year Nicole Dalton (2011-12 & 2010-11, Chaparral High School), Morgan Broekhuis (2009-10 & 2008-09, Colorado Springs Christian), and Lauren Van Orden (2007-08, Grandview) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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